

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service/ U.S. Geological Survey
Climate Change Forum
Draft Agenda**

Date: February 21, 22, 23, 2007

Location: Anchorage, Alaska

Goals of the Forum:

- 1) Inform resource professionals about natural resources in Alaska that may be affected by accelerated climate change;
- 2) Initiate development of a strategic approach by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) in Region 7 to meet our mission and statutory mandates in light of global climate change;
- 3) Provide the opportunity for cross programmatic staff at all levels to participate in strategy development;
- 4) Strengthen communication and collaboration among USFWS and US Geological Survey (USGS) scientists and project leaders in Alaska.

Background:

Climatic changes and subsequent alterations of habitat present considerable challenges to the USFWS in their quest to conserve the fish, wildlife, and plant resources entrusted to them. With our sister agency, USGS, pertinent scientific findings will be presented as a precursor to detailed discussions about ecologically-specific issues that are occurring or anticipated in Alaska. Ongoing and predicted changes include increased frequency and magnitude of extreme events such as floods; melting permafrost, receding ice sheets and glaciers; rising sea levels; changes in vegetation composition and structure; latitudinal and elevational shifts in floral and faunal distributions; accelerated introduction and dispersal of invasive species; novel interspecies associations; and the potential loss of biodiversity (http://alaska.fws.gov/climate/Anchorage_Future_Challenges_Report_final.pdf). Given our legislative mandates and existing policies, what are the appropriate managerial responses to these complex environmental changes? USFWS and USGS in Alaska, where climatic changes are predicted to be severe, are committed to working together to strategically investigate and address these changes.

Desired Outcomes of the Forum:

- 1) Understand effects of climate change at global, regional, and local scales.
- 2) Initiate development of a strategic plan for Region 7 to respond to a rapidly changing environment and better achieve our mission.
- 3) Strategy development should include:
 - a) Articulating a vision (goal) for the strategy.
 - b) Identifying future directions for research, management and education activities within Region 7.
 - c) Developing a broad and adaptive implementation plan.
- 4) Establish an adaptive process to facilitate continued strategic planning.
- 5) Formal recommendations to leadership teams on steps needed to continue strategy development and implementation.

SCHEDULE: Day 1 Scientific Presentations

Location: Egan Center, Anchorage

Time: Presentations: 8:00am – 11:30am

Lunch

Presentations: 1:00pm – 5:00pm

Social/Poster Session: 5:00pm – 7:00pm (TNC-Hosted)

8:00am – 8:15am Welcome & Introduction – Tom Melius (USFWS, Region 7) and Leslie Holland-Bartels (USGS, Alaska Science Center)

8:15am – 8:30am Structure of the Forum – Ellen Lance (USFWS, Region 7) and Tony DeGange (USGS, Alaska Science Center)

Morning Session – Virginia Burkett – Chair (Coordinator, USGS Global Change Science)

8:30am – 9:30am Keynote - Overview of Climate Change in the Arctic
Bob Corell (Chair – Arctic Climate Impact Assessment)

9:30am – 10:00am Alaska's Paleo-Ecological History
Tom Ager (USGS, Research Geologist, Denver, CO)

10:00am – 10:30am Break

10:30am – 11:00am Effects of Climate Change on Water Resources
Glenn Hodgkins and Steven Frenzel (USGS, Water Resources Division)

11:00am – 11:30am Changes to the Alaskan Permafrost
Gary Clow (USGS Research Geologist, Denver, CO)

11:30 am – 1:00pm Lunch

Afternoon Session – Tony DeGange – Chair (USGS)

1:00pm – 1:30pm Sea Level Rise and Coastal Erosion
Don Forbes (Canada Geological Survey)

1:30pm – 2:00pm Response of Terrestrial Ecosystems in the Arctic
Terry Chapin (Institute of Arctic Biology, University of Alaska – Fairbanks)

2:00pm – 2:30pm Forest Dynamics and Fire
Glenn Juday (School of Natural Resources and Agricultural Sciences, University of Alaska – Fairbanks)

SCHEDULE: Day 1 Scientific Presentations Continued

2:30pm – 3:00pm Break

3:00pm – 3:30pm Effects of Climate Change on Terrestrial Wildlife
Brad Griffith (USGS, Alaska Fish and Wildlife Cooperative Research Unit)

3:30pm – 4:00pm Sea ice and Sea ice-dependent Marine Mammals
David Douglas and Steven Amstrup (USGS, Alaska Science Center)

4:00pm – 4:30pm Perspectives of Indigenous Alaskans on Climate Change
Speaker (TBA)

4:30pm – 5:00pm Implications for Adaptation: Putting climate change in a
management context – John Morton (USFWS, Kenai National Wildlife Refuge)

5:00pm – 7:00pm Poster Session
Hosted by The Nature Conservancy

SCHEDULE: Day 2 Alaska Region - Strategy Building Workshop

Location:	Gordon Watson Conference Room, Regional Office, Anchorage
Time:	Workshop: 8:00am-12:00pm Lunch Workshop: 1:00pm–5:00pm
Workshop Chair –	Dan Ashe (USFWS, Science Advisor to the Director)
8:00am–8:15am	Welcome & Introduction – Tom Melius (USFWS, Regional 7) and Leslie Holland-Bartels (USGS, Alaska Science Center)
8:15am–9:15am	Morning Plenary: Panel Discussion Of Mandates Panel Lead: Danielle Jerry (USFWS, Realty and Natural Resources)
9:15am–9:45am	Introduction to Breakout Sessions: An Eco-regional and Thematic-Combination – Lead Facilitator (TBA) <i>Description: Goals for the strategy building exercise explained.</i>
9:45am-10:00am	Move To Breakout Rooms
10:00am-12:00pm	Identifying Research, Management, and Outreach/Education Needs (The What) – Group Facilitator and Ecological Planning Unit Lead <i>Description: A facilitated discussion is lead by a Region 7 employee with expertise in an Ecological Planning Unit.</i>
12:00pm–1:00pm	Lunch
1:00pm–2:30pm	Prioritize Research, Management, and Outreach/Education Activities Identified in Previous Exercise –Group Facilitator and Ecological Planning Unit Lead <i>Description: Facilitators initiate prioritization exercise</i>
2:30pm-2:45pm	Break
2:45pm-3:45pm	Reporting Priorities By Ecological Planning Unit – Group Facilitators <i>Description: Group facilitators have ten minutes to report back to the larger group the results of their session with special emphasis directed to their prioritized list.</i>
3:45pm-5:00pm	Clarification and Consolidation of Priorities, Discussion on Implementation Strategies and Preview of Next Day’s Effort to Bring Priorities Across Ecological Planning Units into the Context Of Thematics - Lead Facilitator <i>Description: Clarifications and explanations will be provided. Common or region-wide priorities will be identified. Implementation strategies discussed. Discuss thematic breakouts for next day’s session.</i>

SCHEDULE: Day 3: Alaska Region - Strategy Building Workshop

Location: Gordon Watson Conference Room, Regional Office, Anchorage
Time: Workshop: 8:00am–12:00pm
 Lunch
 1:00pm-2:30pm

8:00am–8:30am Welcome, Review, and Introduce the Day’s Tasks – Lead Facilitator
Description: Recap the outcomes of the previous day’s work and discuss the objectives of the Thematic groupings. Goal is to draft objectives for the Regional strategy.

8:30am-9:00am Morning Plenary (TBA)

9:00am–9:15am Move to Breakout Rooms

9:15am-12:00am Thematic Breakouts to Discuss Actions that Will Bring Us Closer to the Goals of the Strategy (the How) - Group Facilitators
Description: Regional strategy objectives statements will be formulated.

12:00am-1:00pm Lunch

1:00pm-2:00pm Summarize Results – Group and Lead Facilitators
Description: Present findings from thematic breakouts. Findings will be compiled in the effort to eventually develop a region-wide strategy to submit to the Regional Director. Information gained from this workshop will allow us to 1) develop a vision statement (goals) for the strategy, 2) identify directions for future research, management and education activities within Region 7, 3) articulate objectives, and 4) develop a broad and adaptive plan for implementing the vision.

2:00pm-2:30pm Future Actions (Building on the Now) – TBA
Description: Where the strategy might take us in the future? Review the approach. Review recommendations.